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DIRECTORATE OF
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25X1

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21 April 1972

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

CHINA-US: Chinese show concern about propaganda
treatment of US. [redacted] (Page 8)

25X1

25X1

25X6

25X1

Next 9 Page(s) In Document Exempt

CHINA-US: CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE SHOWING SOME CONCERN ABOUT PROPAGANDA TREATMENT OF THE US IN LIGHT OF THE UPSURGE OF FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA.

25X1

PEKING'S SENSITIVITY SEEMS CAREFULLY DELIMITED, HOWEVER. THE CHINESE HAVE NOT INDULGED IN WHOLESALE PROPAGANDA DENUNCIATIONS OF THE US FOR ITS ROLE IN THE CURRENT INDOCHINESE FIGHTING. NCNA HAS IN FACT ROUTINELY BUT WITHOUT GREAT ELABORATION REPORTED ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE TABLE TENNIS TEAM IN DETROIT AND THE "WARM WELCOME" THE TEAM RECEIVED THERE, AS WELL AS ON THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE ARRIVAL IN PEKING OF SENATORS SCOTT AND MANSFIELD.

25X1

THE CHINESE OBVIOUSLY HAVE A PROBLEM IN HOW TO PORTRAY THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH WASHINGTON WHILE THE FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA REMAINS AT A HIGH LEVEL. THUS FAR THEIR SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE TO AVOID PUBLICIZING MATERIAL THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE TOO BLATANT A SLAP IN HANOI'S FACE, WHILE ALSO AVOIDING A PROPAGANDA POSTURE THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED IN WASHINGTON AS SIGNALING A CHANGE IN PEKING'S ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS THE US.

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21 Apr 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

8

25X1

IN FACT, PEKING APPEARED TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN ITS PROPAGANDA TREATMENT OF OFFICIAL SINO-US CONTACTS EVEN BEFORE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE. WHILE NCNA REPORTED ROUTINELY THE INITIAL MEETING IN PARIS BETWEEN US AND CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES, CHINESE MEDIA IGNORED TWO SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, BOTH OF WHICH TOOK PLACE BEFORE THE OFFENSIVE WAS FULLY UNDER WAY.

25X1

21 Apr 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

9

25X1

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1

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